



Muscogee County School District

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For Immediate Release

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NEWS RELEASE

Underage Drinking Prevention *Three Rings of Commitment*

(Columbus, GA)-The Muscogee County School District Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force plans to host the *Three Rings of Commitment Ceremony* on Thursday, July 29, 2010, at 9:30 a.m. at the Columbus Civic Center. Leaders of three communities including Columbus, Fort Benning, and Phenix City, Alabama will share how and why they support the efforts to deter underage drinking in the tri-community area. During the ceremony, a student representative from each city will interlock a ring representing his or her city on a platform.

One of the goals of the Muscogee County School District's Safe and Drug Free Schools Department is to identify destructive decisions students make using the Georgia Student Health Survey II. Based on survey responses of students in grades 6, 8, 10, and 12, initiatives are developed to assist students in making more appropriate decisions through education and awareness building. Of course, underage drinking can have a wide impact. For example, students who drink are more likely to engage in other inappropriate and risky behaviors.

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Humans Services, the teenage brain is still developing. Alcohol can impair the parts of the brain that control the following:

- **Motor Coordination:** This includes the ability to walk, drive, and process information.

-More-

- **Impulse Control:** Drinking lowers inhibitions and increases the chances that a person will do something that they will regret when they are sober.
- **Memory:** Impaired recollection and even blackouts can occur when too much alcohol has been consumed.
- **Judgment:** Drinking may lead young people to engage in risky behaviors that can result in illness, injury, and even death.

The general public and media are invited to attend. For more information, e-mail communications@mcsdga.net , or call 706-748-2034.

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